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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,790	12/09/2003	Michael Kilian	E0295.70190US00	4910

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EXAMINER	
WONG, JOSEPH D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2168	

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08/08/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,790

Applicant(s)

KILIAN ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph D. Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 65-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 65-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments with respect to 35 USC 102(e) rejections of claims 65-78 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection under 35 USC 101 rejection of claims 70-78 and 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 65-78. This action is made NON-FINAL.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

**Claims 70-78 are rejected for being directed towards nonstatutory subject matter.**

Claim 70 is directed at least one computer readable medium encoded with instructions.

The Instant Specification paragraph [20] exemplifies that this product includes “one or more segments of transmission media on which communications may be exchanged between the devices... Each segment may be any of a plurality of types of transmission media, including one or more electrical or optical wires or cables made of metal and/or optical fiber, air (e.g., using wireless transmission over carrier waves) or any combination of these transmission media”. As such the invention is drawn to a signal which is considered a form of energy. This description is evidence that the medium includes signals and as such the claimed invention is drawn to a form of energy. Energy is not one of the four categories of invention and therefore claims 71-74 are not statutory. Energy is not a series of steps or acts and thus is not a process. Energy is not a

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physical article and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Energy is not a combination of substances and therefore is not a composition of matter.

Claim 75 is directed to a storage system for use in a computer system. The element of a "host" can be interpreted according to definition #4 of The Authoritative Dictionary of IEEE Standards and Terms, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. as including a "spooler" (P. 523) which can be interpreted in the light the art as software per se because (P. 1089 of IEEE) defines it as "a program that initiates and controls spooling". Also the term "storage device" is defined (P. 1112-1113) to include "data management" or "any medium" in which data can be retained. Reasonable doubt is raised as to whether the standard definition is inclusive of software per se. Accordingly claims 76-78 are rejected for the same reason also.

Applicants can look to MPEP 2106.01-2106.02, 707.06 (August 2006), Interim Guidelines, Instant Specification, and contemporary case law with a matching fact pattern for further suggestions that may be helpful in overcoming these rejections.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 65-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuart et al., US Pre-Grant Pub. No. 2005/0055519, Filed 15 Dec. 2003, CIP Date of 8 Sept. 2003,**

**Pub. Date 10 Mar. 2005, hereinafter Stuart in view of Cossey et al., US Pre-Grant Pub. No. 2004/0070622 A1, Filed 15 Oct. 2002, Pub. Date 15 Apr. 2004, hereinafter Cossey.**

Regarding claim 65, Stuart teaches a method for use in a computer system comprising at least one host and at least one storage system, the method comprising acts of:

- (A) receiving a request, from the host, to delete a unit of content stored on the storage system (See paragraph [0020], Figs. 4 & 9),
- (B) determining whether previously-defined retention period for the unit of content has expired; (See paragraph [0020], Figs. 4 & 9)
- (C) when it is determined in the act (B) that the retention period for the unit of content has not expired, denying the request to delete the unit of content (See paragraphs [19-20], Fig. 9); and (D) when it is determined in the act (B) that the retention period for the unit of content has expired, directly deleting the unit of content in response to the request. (See paragraphs [93-94], Fig. 9)

Stuart does not explicitly teach wherein a previously-defined retention period for the unit of content is stored in the unit of content, wherein the request identifies the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the content of the unit of content, and wherein the at least a portion of the content of the unit of content includes the previously-defined retention period;

However, Cossey teaches wherein a previously-defined retention period for the unit of content is stored in the unit of content, wherein the request identifies the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the content of the unit of

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content, and wherein the at least a portion of the content of the unit of content includes the previously-defined retention period; (paragraphs [32, 52])

Stuart and Cossey are analogous art pertinent to the problem to be solved. A skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine Stuart and Cossey because it provides for duplicating user selections using fewer actions than are required by conventional editing functions as discussed in paragraph [9] of Cossey.

Therefore at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine Stuart and Cossey because it provides for duplicating user selections using fewer actions than are required by conventional editing functions as suggested in paragraph [9] of Cossey.

Regarding claim 66, Stuart teaches the method, wherein the acts (A), (B) and (C) are performed by the storage system. (See paragraphs [7, 22-24]; Fig. 1)

Regarding claim 67, Stuart teaches the method, further comprising an act (D) of, prior to performing the acts (A), (B) and (C), receiving information specifying the retention period for the unit of data. (See paragraphs [32-33], Fig. 4)

Regarding claim 68, Stuart teaches the method, further comprising acts of, prior to performing the acts (A), (B) and (C):  
(D) receiving the unit of data at the storage system (See paragraphs [7, 39-41]); and  
(E) writing the unit of data to the storage system. ([8])

Regarding claim 69, Stuart teaches the method, further comprising acts of, prior to performing the acts (A), (B) and (C):

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(F) receiving information specifying the retention period for the unit of data along with the unit of data; and (Paragraphs [32-33], Fig. 4)

(G) writing the information specifying the retention period to the storage system. (Paragraphs 32-42)

Regarding claim 70, Stuart teaches at least one computer readable medium encoded with instructions that, when executed on a computer system, perform a method for use in the computer system, wherein the computer system comprises at least one host and at least one storage system, and wherein the method comprises acts of

(A) receiving a request, from the host, to delete a unit of content stored on the storage system (See paragraph [0020], Figs. 4 & 9); (See paragraph [20], Figs. 4+9)

(B) determining whether previously-defined retention period for the unit of content has expired; (See paragraph [0020], Figs. 4 & 9)

(C) when it is determined in the act (B) that the retention period for the unit of content has not expired, denying the request to delete the unit of content (See paragraphs [19-20], Fig. 9); and

(D) when it is determined in the act (B) that the retention period for the unit of content has expired, directly deleting the unit of content in response to the request. (See paragraphs [93-94], Fig. 9)

Stuart does not explicitly teach wherein a previously-defined retention period for the unit of content is stored in the unit of content, wherein the request identifies the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the content of the unit of

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content, and wherein the at least a portion of the content of the unit of content includes the previously-defined retention period.

However, Cossey teaches wherein a previously-defined retention period for the unit of content is stored in the unit of content, wherein the request identifies the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the content of the unit of content, and wherein the at least a portion of the content of the unit of content includes the previously-defined retention period. (paragraphs [32, 52])

Regarding claim 71, Stuart teaches the at least one computer readable medium, wherein the acts (A), (B) and (C) are performed by the storage system. (See paragraphs [7, 22-24]; Fig. 1)

Regarding claim 72, Stuart teaches the at least one computer readable medium, further comprising an act (D) of, prior to performing the acts (A), (B) and (C), receiving information specifying the retention period for the unit of data.

Regarding claim 73, Stuart teaches the at least one computer readable medium, further comprising acts of, prior to performing the acts (A), (B) and (C): (See paragraphs [32-33], Fig. 4) (D) receiving the unit of data at the storage system (See paragraphs [7, 39-41]); and (E) writing the unit of data to the storage system. ([8])

Regarding claim 74, Stuart teaches the at least one computer readable medium, further comprising acts of, prior to performing the acts (A), (B) and (C): (F) receiving information specifying the retention period for the unit of data along with the unit of data; and (Paragraphs [32-33], Fig. 4)



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(G) writing the information specifying the retention period to the storage system. (Paragraphs 32-42)

Regarding claim 75, Stuart teaches a storage system for use in a computer system comprising at least one host and the storage system, the storage system comprising: at least one storage device to store data received from the at least one host (See paragraph [0020], Figs. 4 & 9); and at least one controller that; receives a request, from the host, to delete a unit of data stored on the storage system (See paragraph [0020], Figs. 4 & 9), wherein a previously-defined retention period for the unit of content is stored in the unit of content, determines whether the previously-defined retention period for the unit of data has expired; when it is determined that the retention period for the unit of data has not expired, denies the request to delete the unit of data (See paragraphs [19-20], Fig. 9); and when it is determined that the retention period for the unit of content has expired, directly deletes the unit of content in response to the request. (See paragraphs [93-94], Fig. 9)

Stuart does not explicitly teach wherein the request identifies the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the content of the unit of content, and wherein the at least a portion of the content of the unit of content includes the previously-defined retention period.

However, Cossey teaches wherein the request identifies the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the content of the unit of

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content, and wherein the at least a portion of the content of the unit of content includes the previously-defined retention period. (Paragraphs [32, 52])

Regarding claim 76, Stuart teaches the storage system, wherein the at least one controller receives information specifying the retention period for the unit of data. (See paragraphs [7, 22-24]; Fig. 1)

Regarding claim 77, Stuart teaches the storage system, wherein the at least one controller receives the unit of data and writes the unit of data to the at least one storage device. (See paragraphs [32-33], Fig. 4)

Regarding claim 78, Stuart teaches the storage system, wherein the at least one controller receives information specifying the retention period for the unit of data along with the unit of data and writes the information specifying the retention period to the at least one storage device. (Paragraphs 32-42)

### ***Conclusion***

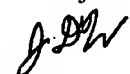
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph D. Wong whose telephone number is 571-270-1015. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. 8:30AM - 6:00PM and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim T. Vo can be reached on (571) 272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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28 July 2007

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